
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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P.O. Box 49
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YAKUTAT COMMERCIAL SET GILLNET AND SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Yakutat...The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the Yakutat area commercial set gillnet fishery:

All Waters of the Yakutat District (Icy Cape to Cape Fairweather): will be CLOSED until further notice.

Sockeye salmon returns to the Yakutat area have been depressed and at present show no signs of improving. The count of 1,700 sockeye salmon through the Situk River weir is well below the long-term average of 20,000 fish for this date and is the lowest on record. The Situk River biological escapement goal (BEG) range is 30,000-70,000 sockeye salmon and may not be achieved if a commercial fishery is prosecuted. The waters of the Yakutat District are being closed to set gillnetting as a conservation measure. Fisheries may reopen on short notice if escapement levels improve.

Subsistence Fishing: Effective immediately, the weekly subsistence fishing period for all subsistence gear will be from 6:00 a.m., Friday through 6:00 p.m., Saturday. Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet subsistence fishing for Chinook salmon is still closed. Subsistence fishing for sockeye salmon may close on short notice should additional conservation measures be necessary.

The following areas will be closed to ALL subsistence salmon fishing:

Mouth of Situk River: Subsistence fishing is prohibited near the mouth of the Situk River west of a line from an ADF&G regulation marker located at the southeast end of Johnson Slough at 59°26.27' N. lat., 139°32.62' W. long.; to a regulation marker directly across the Inlet on Black Sand Spit at 59°25.77' N. lat., 139°33.18' W. long.; to a regulation marker westward along the beach of Black Sand Spit at 59°26.49' N. lat., 139°35.01' W. long., and to a regulation marker west of the Yakutat Seafoods buying station at 59°26.72' N. lat., 139°34.61' W. long.

All waters of Johnson Slough are also closed.

The actions described above are intended to reduce fishery harvests of sockeye salmon, help ensure the Situk River BEG is achieved, and allow sockeye salmon to reach spawning areas.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1Y0618.

News releases web site: <http://documents.cfl.adfg.state.ak.us/TopicContents.po>.

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